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REPORT NO

DATE DISTR

22 November 1974

COUNTRY Italy/Belgium/Canada/International

DOI Mid-October 1974

JECT Plans for Future Activity of Russell Tribunal

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-10-2010 BY SP/SP/SP

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FIELD NO

ACQ

SOURCE

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1. Italian Senator (Independent Left) Lelio Basso stated on 17 October 1974 that the second session of the Russell Tribunal on Latin America will be held in Brussels on 11-18 January 1975. The theme of the session will be the role played by multinational companies, and the political/economic powers behind them, in the exploitation of Latin American raw materials and manpower in alliance with local power groups. Basso said that he does not expect the session to be as brilliant as the first session in Rome but that he does think it will pay sufficient dividends in the sense of affirming the Tribunal's goal of establishing itself as a new venue for international jurisprudence. His immediate concern, he added, is finding the necessary funds to cover the session's expenses.

2. Basso said that a third and final session on Latin America will convene in Canada, possibly either in Montreal or Toronto, perhaps with the session opening in Montreal and concluding in Toronto. Quebec, however, is also a possibility. Basso said that he would prefer French-speaking Montreal but that his Canadian correspondents have indicated a preference for Toronto for the entire session because of its proximity to the U.S. and the greater possibility of media coverage. Planning for the Canadian session is currently on the basis of a June 1975 date, he said, although he thinks that will allow too little time between sessions for proper planning. In commenting on the problem of raising funds for the Canadian session, Basso noted that he had been promised complete funding

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if he would select Damascus as the session site, but that he had rejected the offer since Damascus clearly is not suitable for convening a meeting to be attended by international press and other interested groups.

3. With respect to long-range plans for the Tribunal, Basso said that the Tribunal Committee of 25 members has been considering a number of current repression cases, with foremost consideration being given to apartheid in South Africa, but that no definite decisions have yet been made. One possibility, he said, would be a session on repression in the USSR as a means of establishing the Tribunal's impartiality and credibility. He added that such a session, if held, could not occur before 1975 at the earliest and, in any case, would involve three stages:

a. Consideration of the proposal by the Tribunal Committee; although four Communists sit on the Committee their opposition could be easily overcome.

b. Definition of the Tribunal's goals in such manner as to preclude its being forced or maneuvered into acting on behalf of particular groups being repressed in the USSR, for example, the Jews, preparation of documented case studies; and identifying and obtaining the participation of witnesses.

c. Raising of funds from a sufficiently wide variety of contributors to prevent the accusations of partisanship and of having sold out to the "imperialists" that would inevitably be made by the Communist world.

Basso said it would be premature to speculate on where these sessions would be held, but commented that a spread of sessions on different continents would be desirable for maximum impact.

4. [] Comment: See [] of 22 May and [] of 2 October 1974 for earlier reporting from Basso on this subject.)

5. Field Dissem: Embassy at Rome. Sent to []

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